

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

At first, explanation is made on the case where the above apparatus is used for the retinal photocoagulation treatment, in which the spot size is set at as relatively large as 500  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. When the spot size is set at 500  $\mu\text{m}$  with the knob 5a, the zoom lenses 22 and 24 are moved to respective predetermined positions (from dotted lines to solid lines) shown in Figs. 4A and 4B. Fig. 4A shows the on-axis luminous flux L1 of the treatment beam emerging from a center portion of the exit end face 2a of the fiber 2. Fig. 4B shows the outermost off-axis luminous flux L2 of the treatment beam emerging from an end (edge) portion (a lower end (edge) portion in the figure) of the exit end face 2a. In the case of the large spot size, as shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, in the vicinity of the zoom lens 24, the on-axis luminous flux L1 travels along (on) the optical axis L in a vertical plane to the optical axis L and the outermost off-axis luminous flux L2 travels through off the optical axis L in the vertical plane. The shielding part 25a of the beam-attenuating plate 25 is provided in a position on the optical axis L where the on-axis luminous flux L1 and the off-axis luminous flux including the outermost off-axis luminous flux L2 do not coincide (converge) in the vertical plane. In the optical arrangement in the present embodiment, the position on the optical axis L where the on-axis luminous flux L1 and the off-axis luminous flux coincide (converge) exists near a condensing position of the condensing lens 21 (that is, near the lens 22). The size of the shielding part 25a is determined so that a beam-attenuation ratio at which the shielding part 25a attenuates the on-axis luminous flux L1 corresponds to an intensity ratio between the center portion and the peripheral portion of a desired irradiation spot. For example, if the ~~intention~~-intended ratio is 1 to 2 between the center portion and the peripheral portion of the irradiation spot of which the spot size is 500  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter as in the present

embodiment, the size of the shielding part 25a is determined so as to offer a 1-to-2 area ratio between the area of the shielding part 25a and the sectional area of the on-axis luminous flux L1 at the position of the shielding part 25a.